

Message Text

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TAGS: TQ XP PFOR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS'S PRESS RELEASE ON U S FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE FOR MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

1. PLEASE PASS TO MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE AND ASK MNS TO DISSEMINATE
THROUGH ITS NORMAL CHANNELS FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE FROM AMB WILLIAMS
REGARDING HIS REPLY TO COM LEADERS ABOUT U S FUNDING FOR MICRO-
NESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. YOU MAY RELEASE TO MNS
AND ANY OTHERS YOU THINK MAY BE INTERESTED UPON RECEIPT.

2. "AMBASSADOR F. HAYDEN WILLIAMS SUPPORTS CALLING OF MICRONESIAN
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND RENEWS OFFER OF U S FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
IN A LETTER LAST WEEK TO MICRONESIAN SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA
AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY, AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS EXPRESS
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ED

THE US GOVERNMENT'S SATISFACTION AT LEARNING IN A RECENT LETTER TO HIM

FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THAT THEY HOPE TO SEE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PASS AT ITS NEXT SESSION LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR MICRONESIA. NOTING THAT THE US HAS FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS INVITED THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO TAKE AT AN EARLY DATE THIS ESSENTIAL STEP IN THE TRANSITION TOWARD MICRONESIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT, THE AMBASSADOR REPEATED EARLIER U S PLEDGES TO ASSIST IN DEFRAYING THE COSTS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. IN HIS LETTER THE AMBASSADOR INFORMED THE MICRONESIAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP THAT NOW THAT THE CONGRESS HAS INFORMED OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WILL ACT SHORTLY REGARDING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME REQUESTED U S ASSISTANCE, HE HAS FORMALLY RECOMMENDED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR THAT THE U S CONGRESS BE ASKED FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST IN FINANCING THE PROPOSED CONVENTION. EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WILL BEAR FOR CREATING THE STRUCTURE OF A FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS HAS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY THE CITIZENS OF MICRONESIA IN THIS HISTORIC UNDERTAKING AND HAS EXTENDED HIS BEST WISHES FOR THE CONVENTION'S SUCCESS. THE TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO SENATOR NAKAYAMA AND SPEAKER HENRY FOLLOWS:

DEAR PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA AND SPEAKER HENRY:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER INFORMING ME OF YOUR INTENTION TO SEEK ONCE AGAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FOR THE CALLING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, AND CONVEYING YOUR REQUEST THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH A CONVENTION. THE US POSITION ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT IS CLEAR, CONSISTENT, AND A MATTER OF RECORD. WE HAVE FREQUENTLY INVITED AND ENCOURAGED THE CONVENING OF A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND HAVE STATED PUBLICLY OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COSTS OF SUCH AN UNDERTAKING--BUT ONLY UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. YOUR LETTER IS THE FIRST SUCH
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REQUEST RECEIVED BY MY GOVERNMENT.
AT HANA, MAU, TWO YEARS AGO I STATED THAT THE U S EXPECTED THAT THE ULTIMATE FORM, STRUCTURE AND SUBSTANCE OF A NEW MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BASED ON A CONSTITUTION DRAFTED BY DULY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND FINALLY ADOPTED BY POPULAR VOTE OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. AT KOROR IN THE SPRING OF 1972, IN DISCUSSING TRANSITION, I SAID THAT THE U S WANTED THE TRANSITION FROM MICRONESIA'S

PRESENT STATUS TO A NEW ONE TO BE SMOOTH AND ORDERLY, HOPEFULLY BY A GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ARRANGEMENT PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL CHANGE OF STATUS. I SAID FURTHER THAT PLANNING FOR TRANSITION SHOULD RELATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO THE NATURE OF YOUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THIS WAS A QUESTION WHICH HAD TO BE RESOLVED BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA THEMSELVES. I SAID IT WAS OUR DESIRE TO MOVE MICRONESIA ONE STEP CLOSER TO SELF-GOVERNMENT DURING A PERIOD OF TRANSITION, AND URGED THE IMMEDIATE CALLING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. AGAIN, AT THE FINAL SESSION OF THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON IN JULY 1972, THE U S CALLED FOR THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION CREATING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, SAYING "...THIS TASK AND THIS OPPORTUNITY WILL CALL FOR A UNITY OF PURPOSE NEVER BEFORE REQUIRED OF YOUR LEADERS AND YOUR PEOPLE AND WE WISH YOU WELL IN THIS ENDEAVOR AS YOU BEGIN TO LAY DOWN YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT."

OUR DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE FAILURE OF THE CONGRESS TO ENACT SUCH LEGISLATION AT THE PONAPE SPECIAL SESSION WAS RELECTED IN THE OPENING AMERICAN STATEMENT AT THE BARBERS POINT TALKS. AT THAT TIME, I SAID:

"WE REPEAT THIS INVITATION, THIS CALL FOR YOUR LEADERS AND YOUR PEOPLE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF FRAMING YOUR OWN FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS, YOUR OWN LAWMAKING PROCEDURES, YOUR OWN CONCEPTS OF DIVISION OF AUTHORITY, YOUR OWN JUDICIARY, YOUR OWN DESIGN FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND DISTRICT GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS, YOUR OWN LAWS ON LAND AND EMINENT DOMAIN, AND YOUR OWN REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES AND SHARING BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS"

WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT THESE ARE QUESTIONS ONLY MICRONESIANS CAN RESOLVE. THEY ARE INTERNAL FAMILY MATTERS. ALL THAT WE CAN DO IS TO OFFER AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST TO BE HELPFUL WHEN REQUESTED BY YOU TO DO SO.

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NOW THAT YOU HAVE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE, I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT I HAVE RECOMMENDED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR THAT A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BE SOUGHT FROM THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE FINANCING OF A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. THE ESTIMATE OF COSTS WHICH YOU INCLUDED IN YOUR LETTER HAS BEEN STUDIED AND HAS BEEN HELPFUL. I SHALL BE WRITING YOU SUBSEQUENTLY TO INFORM YOU OF THE FINAL RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS, BUT I WISH AT THIS TIME TO ASSURE YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FULLY INTENDS TO SEEK ADEQUATE SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING TO ASSIST IN THE FINANCING OF A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS WISHES TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL

CONVENTION AS ONE OF THE SUB-ITEMS UNDER "TRANSITION" AT
THE NOVEMBER TALKS IN WASHINGTON. THIS WILL GIVE THE
AMERICAN SIDE THE CHANCE TO HEAR A FURTHER EXPOSITION OF
THE PLANS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REGARDING A CONVENTION,
AND WE WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY.

WITH KIND REGARDS, SINCERELY YOURS, FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS,
THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN
STATUS NEGOTIATIONS"

END QUOTE.

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